

The Honorable Neal Morrison  
State Representative  
Legislative Oversight Committee  
Alabama State House – Room 517-F  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-6050

Dear Representative Morrison:

Enclosed for your review, per Federal guidelines, is the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division's (LETS Division) request for grant funds under the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG). These grant funds are authorized pursuant to Public Law 104-208 at Title VI, Subtitle C, as amended, also known as the Anti-Drug Act of 1988, as amended.

This law requires a review of the State's JAG Program grant application by the State Legislature or its designated body (the ADECA Oversight Committee). Following such review, the State (by and through the ADECA LETS Division) must certify that such review has occurred pursuant to the grant application requirement at "Certified Assurances Number 3."

Alabama and the ADECA LETS Division are making an impact on violent crime and illegal drug use through the expenditure of the JAG Program grant funds. Your support in the continuance of the State's receipt of these funds is appreciated.

Should you have questions concerning this matter, or if the ADECA LETS Division staff members can be of assistance, please call on us.

Sincerely,

John D. Harrison  
Director

JHH:RHP:db

**STATE LEGISLATURE REVIEW**

**Statewide Strategy and Application was Submitted Per Guidelines for**

**Review:**

**Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs**

**State Representative Neal Morrison, Chairman**

**Legislative Oversight Committee**

**401 Adams Avenue**

**Post Office Box 5690**

**Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5690**

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## **Certification**

### **Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs**

#### **Certification Statement**

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division (LETS Division), does hereby certify to the United States Department of Justice (USDOJ) Office of Justice Programs (OJP) that Alabama's FY2005 Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) application, submitted to the USDOJ OJP by the ADECA LETS Division on or before the March 31, 2005 submission deadline was also submitted to the Alabama State Legislature and was provided to citizens and neighborhood or community organizations of Alabama for comment.

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John D. Harrison, Director

## **PROGRAM NARRATIVE**

Introduction. Alabama's Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division staff developed goals to assist in program selections for Alabama's Byrne Program. Data analyzed indicates that marijuana and cocaine sales, production and use of methamphetamine and crime associated with drug activity are the primary problems. Secondary problems include criminal justice system overload which results in prison overcrowding.

Each program funded is designed to produce increased levels of cooperation between criminal justice agencies addressing violent crime issues in Alabama.

### **Goals:**

1. To promote and encourage cooperation and coordination between agencies within the state and with other jurisdictions that are combating violent crime and illegal drug activities or providing support and assistance to the overall effort by providing services to criminal justice system components. This is a comprehensive goal set out to promulgate a cooperative atmosphere between the several participating entities whose mandate is to enforce the state's laws and protect the public.
2. To develop violent crime task forces that respond to crimes associated with drug activity and to interdict illegal drugs being transported into and through Alabama. This goal is Alabama's first priority and specific projects are supported.

3. To destroy marijuana crops grown in Alabama. Marijuana projection is identified as a major illegal activity in Alabama, however, project support is not provided because other federal and state resources are addressing this problem.
4. To provide testing and treatment capabilities that will identify drug abusers and provide a system that will allow individuals to break drug addiction.
5. To provide intelligence gathering and information system programs that assist in identifying problem areas, enforcement efforts, and information needs. Intelligence systems receive project support and are Alabama's second priority.

### **Priority One**

#### Law Enforcement Programs

Prioritization was accomplished by the staff. Factors that influenced the process included crime data, and the need to respond to illegal drug sales and trafficking and high levels of violent crime. The connection between violent crime and drugs is indicated by Alabama's Part I incarcerated population being drug implicated in approximately 80% of the crime incidences. The process incorporated the necessity of coordination and cooperation between state and local jurisdictions which increased the effectiveness of drug enforcement efforts.

Currently there are 33 task force groups operating in Alabama. Their goals include providing expertise in drug interdiction, confronting drug smuggling, importing and cooperating with state and federal authorities in national anti-drug efforts. Resources are provided by the task force groups to address, investigate and prosecute violent crime.

High crime rates resulting from drug use, illegally acquiring funds to support addiction to drugs and violent threats to public safety are major forces demanding that the justice system provide a positive response to illegal drug

activities. Counties not participating in a violent crime task force are provided services through the state task force. The Department of Public Safety Task Force and the Alabama Beverage Control Board assists local criminal justice units in working major drug cases, highway interdiction, marijuana eradication and meth lab disposal. Marijuana eradication is addressed primarily with state and federal resources other than Byrne funds.

## **Priority Two**

### Law Enforcement Programs

Prioritization was accomplished by the staff. Factors that influenced prioritization included crime data need for system improvement, and development of improved data and intelligence of systems. The process enhanced the coordination and cooperation between state and local jurisdictions increasing the effectiveness of the criminal investigating efforts. Supporting intelligence was provided priority level two because drug activities are very mobile using sophisticated organizations and varied entry points into the state. Criminal activities are increasing in violence, necessitating emphasis on providing protection for the public. Emphasizing improvements and coordinating intelligence operations was given a high priority. A need was recognized for an intelligence function to collect data and to use that information effectively. Challenges facing law enforcement today, requires solid information developed in a timely manner. In the past, local law enforcement officers did not have a centralized intelligence program dedicated to the continuous exchange of information gathered on violent crimes related to drug offenders and their criminal organizations. This program is addressing that void.

Alabama's intelligence program began with two sites and has increased to five sites strategically located throughout the state. Each site collects intelligence and loads the information into a computer database. Field information is then transferred to a central repository which is manned by analysts who work with the AIN program and provide analytical products for officers in the field who are conducting criminal investigations.

### **Priority THREE**

#### Prevention and Education Programs

The costs of crime are an intolerable burden on Alabama's resources, a burden that will be lifted only when crime can be prevented, not just investigated and prosecuted. Prevention is a problem-solving approach of the highest order. It seeks to forestall trouble by solving problems that cause crime, as well as addressing symptoms. It is highly compatible with community oriented policing and the concept of community justice. Prevention provides knowledge about ways to involve the entire community in reducing crime, both individually and collectively; community-policing practices can spread that knowledge.

Community policing officers need to understand and apply techniques to educate and motivate citizens, crime prevention offers these techniques. Because crime prevention addresses both physical and social aspects of neighborhoods, it offers numerous ways for community policing officers to gain entry into community circles. Crime prevention offers resources to help change community knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors-skills that can contribute importantly to solving many kinds of community problems. Community policing can make the prevention of crime a widespread goal among the community's residents and policy makers.

Prevention provides opportunities for the entire community. Its' success requires involvement by individuals in their homes, their neighborhoods, their schools, their work sites, their places of worship, their recreational facilities, and their public spaces. Every arm of government has an important role to play. Prevention addresses both short-term and long-term issues confronting communities. It provides strategies for reducing personal, family and neighborhood crime risks by diminishing crime opportunities and hardening targets; it encourages and provides a framework for concerted community action toward addressing conditions that require longer-term action. Crime prevention means working in partnership, rather than in isolation. Working with concerned citizens to address ways to prevent crime and drug abuse. It means communities and individual citizens learning how to protect themselves and working together to keep their neighborhoods crime and drug free. It means providing positive alternatives for youth and empowering them to have a stake in their schools and communities. It means law enforcement working with communities, businesses, and service organizations to develop action plans based on information about crime and other problems.

#### **Priority Four**

##### Planning Evaluation and Technology Improvement Programs

Prioritization was accomplished by the staff. Introduction: Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center (ACJIS) was established in October of 1975 by the Alabama Legislature to collect, store, retrieve, analyze and disseminate vital information relating to certain crimes, criminals, and criminal activity. Many things have changed in the past 28 years as far as technology and the various threats to our society are concerned. ACJIC is responding to these challenges



by aggressively setting forth a total plan that will provide a comprehensive criminal justice information system that serves both Alabama and our National requirements for sharing of information. More than this, it is the vision of ACJIC to become a model for the country in as many facts of this comprehensive system as possible. Providing improvements to the Alabama Department of Corrections Information System is the selected emphasis projects. Benefits realized will include achieving, connectivity with other criminal justice agencies, reducing redundant data entry applications and increased manpower efficiency.

**ATTACHMENT 1: BUDGET DETAIL WORKSHEET**  
**State of Alabama**  
**FY2004 Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local**  
**Law Enforcement Assistance Grant Program**  
**Budget Detail Worksheet**

Federal allocation of FY 2005 Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local  
 Enforcement Assistance Grant Program funds awarded to the State of Alabama  
 = \$2,234,071

Program Title	Estimated Number of Projects	Year BJA Approved the Program (if approved)	Purpose Area	Estimated Amount of Federal Funds
Program Administration	1			\$523,407
Law Enforcement Programs	35	2005	1	\$4,362,364
Prevention and Education Programs	1	2005	3	\$98,300
Planning, Evaluation, and Technology Improvement	1	2005	6	\$250,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>			<b>\$5,234,071</b>

## **Budget Narrative**

Program Administrative Expenses will not exceed 10% of the total grant award which amounts to \$523,407. Currently the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Division's indirect cost agreement is 3.19% which amounts to \$16,697.

### **Law Enforcement Programs**

A total of 35 projects will be funded from the Law Enforcement purpose area. Support to multi-jurisdictional violent crime drug task force groups will be provided to 33 projects. Funds will be provided to support one multi-county intelligence system. Intelligence systems are resources to the violent crime drug task forces. There are a total of five multi-county intelligence systems currently supporting Alabama's violent crime drug task forces. Four of the intelligence systems receive funding from a local violent crime task force. Law enforcement programs will receive a total of \$4,362,364.

### **Prevention and Education Program**

One statewide preventive program will receive funding. Alabama's Crime Prevention Clearinghouse provides crime prevention services and training to law enforcement, state agencies, community groups and schools to remove and reduce the opportunity for crime in the local communities of Alabama.

A total of \$98,300 is planned for crime prevention.

### **Planning Evaluation and Technology Improvement**

Alabama's technology improvement project provides support to modernize the Department of Corrections Information Systems.

A comprehensive plan is in place which upon completion will include implantation of a client server system, connecting with other criminal system agencies and system-wide efficiency gains, and integration of criminal justice data for the law enforcement community.

Support amounting to \$250,000 is planned for this program area.